
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2627

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By House Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives Springer and Stokesbary)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizations of proposals for emergency
2 medical care and service levies; and amending RCW 84.52.069.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.52.069 and 2012 c 115 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) As used in this section, "taxing district" means a county,
7 emergency medical service district, city or town, public hospital
8 district, urban emergency medical service district, regional fire
9 protection service authority, or fire protection district.

10 (2) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, a
11 taxing district may impose additional regular property tax levies in
12 an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars of the
13 assessed value of property in the taxing district. The tax is imposed
14 (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year for ten
15 consecutive years, or (c) permanently. Except as otherwise provided
16 in this subsection, a permanent tax levy under this section, or the
17 initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year levy under this section,
18 must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least three-
19 fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition
20 authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at
21 which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition

1 (~~shall~~) must constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty
2 percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district
3 at the last preceding general election when the number of registered
4 voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the
5 total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last
6 preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths
7 of the registered voters thereof voting on the proposition when the
8 number of registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty
9 percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district
10 in the last preceding general election. The (~~uninterrupted~~
11 ~~continuation~~) subsequent approval of a six-year or ten-year tax levy
12 under this section must be specifically authorized by a majority of
13 the registered voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the
14 levies submitted at a general or special election. If the entire
15 region comprising a newly formed regional fire protection service
16 authority was subject to the levy authorized under this section
17 immediately prior to the creation of the authority under chapter
18 52.26 RCW, the initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year tax levy
19 under this section may be approved by a majority of the registered
20 voters thereof approving the creation of the authority and the
21 related service plan. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW
22 29A.36.210. A taxing district may not submit to the voters at the
23 same election multiple propositions to impose a levy under this
24 section.

25 (3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this
26 section (~~shall~~) must provide for separate accounting of
27 expenditures of the revenues generated by the levy. The taxing
28 district must maintain a statement of the accounting which must be
29 updated at least every two years and must be available to the public
30 upon request at no charge.

31 (4)(a) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this
32 section must provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the
33 ordinance or resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure
34 must specify that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with
35 a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution.
36 Within ten days, the filing officer must confer with the petitioner
37 concerning form and style of the petition, issue the petition an
38 identification number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive
39 ballot title from the designated local official. The petitioner has
40 thirty days in which to secure the signatures of not less than

1 fifteen percent of the registered voters of the taxing district, as
2 of the last general election, upon petition forms which contain the
3 ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The
4 filing officer must verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the
5 petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted,
6 must certify the referendum measure to the next election within the
7 taxing district if one is to be held within one hundred eighty days
8 from the date of filing of the referendum petition, or at a special
9 election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW
10 29A.04.330.

11 (b) The referendum procedure provided in this subsection (4) is
12 exclusive in all instances for any taxing district imposing the tax
13 under this section and supersedes the procedures provided under all
14 other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum
15 which might otherwise apply.

16 (5) Any tax imposed under this section may be used only for the
17 provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services,
18 including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and
19 related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the
20 provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

21 (6) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing
22 district within the county may levy a tax under this section. If a
23 regional fire protection service authority imposes a tax under this
24 section, no other taxing district that is a participating fire
25 protection jurisdiction in the regional fire protection service
26 authority may levy a tax under this section. No other taxing district
27 may levy a tax under this section if another taxing district has
28 levied a tax under this section within its boundaries: PROVIDED, That
29 if a county levies less than fifty cents per thousand dollars of the
30 assessed value of property, then any other taxing district may levy a
31 tax under this section equal to the difference between the rate of
32 the levy by the county and fifty cents: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if a
33 taxing district within a county levies this tax, and the voters of
34 the county subsequently approve a levying of this tax, then the
35 amount of the taxing district levy within the county must be reduced,
36 when the combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax is levied
37 countywide, the service must, insofar as is feasible, be provided
38 throughout the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no countywide levy
39 proposal may be placed on the ballot without the approval of the
40 legislative authority of ~~((each city exceeding fifty thousand~~

1 ~~population within the county))~~ a majority of at least seventy-five
2 percent of all cities exceeding a population of fifty thousand within
3 the county: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW 36.32.480
4 (~~shall~~) may not prohibit any city or town from levying an annual
5 excess levy to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED,
6 FURTHER, That if a county proposes to impose tax levies under this
7 section, no other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under
8 this section by another taxing district in the county may be placed
9 before the voters at the same election at which the county ballot
10 proposition is placed: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district
11 emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration and that
12 is authorized subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy
13 that is limited in duration, expires concurrently with the county
14 emergency medical service levy. A fire protection district that has
15 annexed an area described in subsection (10) of this section may levy
16 the maximum amount of tax that would otherwise be allowed,
17 notwithstanding any limitations in this subsection (6).

18 (7) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 do not apply to the tax levy
19 authorized in this section.

20 (8) If a ballot proposition approved under subsection (2) of this
21 section did not impose the maximum allowable levy amount authorized
22 for the taxing district under this section, any future increase up to
23 the maximum allowable levy amount must be specifically authorized by
24 the voters in accordance with subsection (2) of this section at a
25 general or special election.

26 (9) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first
27 levy imposed pursuant to this section following the approval of such
28 levy by the voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

29 (10) For purposes of imposing the tax authorized under this
30 section, the boundary of a county with a population greater than one
31 million five hundred thousand does not include all of the area of the
32 county that is located within a city that has a boundary in two
33 counties, if the locally assessed value of all the property in the
34 area of the city within the county having a population greater than
35 one million five hundred thousand is less than two hundred fifty
36 million dollars.

37 (11) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
38 apply:

39 (a) "Fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection
40 district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district; and

1 (b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire
2 protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that
3 is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection
4 service authority.

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